

Message Text

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17

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC I764

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3164

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BM CH VS LA JA CB UN

SUBJ: TANAKA STATE VISIT

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WARMLY RECEIVED BY GUB DURING NOVEMBER 6 - 8 STATE VISIT. FINAL COMMUNIQUE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND URGED PEACE IN VIETNAM AND LAOS; JAPAN ANNOUNCED \$21 MILLION COMMODITY LOAN TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH GUB. KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE WAS APPARENTLY NOT DISCUSSED. NE WIN PRIVATELY HINTED TO TANAKA HIS UNEASINESS ABOUT ALLEGED NON-OFFICIAL US INVOLVEMENT INSURGENTS AND LIKENED US RELATIONS TO "TWO TRACK" RELATIONS WITH THE PRC -- GOOD AT STATE LEVEL, BAD AT PARTY LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY STATE VISIT TO BURMA NOVEMBER 8. GREETED ON HIS ARRIVAL IN RANGOON BY PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN AND AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING
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GUB OFFICIALS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS 18 MAN DELEGATION WERE

GIVEN THE RED CARPET TREATMENT INCLUDING EXTENSIVE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT THEIR BRIEF STAY. TANAKA HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER TOP GUB OFFICIALS AND MADE THE CUSTOMARY TOURIST STOPS. THE PRIME MINISTER PUBLICLY PRAISED THE VIRTUES OF BURMA "THE HOMELAND OF HEART" AND LAUDED THE "UNIQUE" SOCIAL STRUCTURE THAT THE CURRENT REGIME IS ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP.

2. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE STRESSED THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND BURMA, CITED THE NEED FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOUCHED ON THE SITUATION IN SEA, NOTING THAT "BOTH SIDES WELCOMED THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING THE PEACE IN VIETNAM AND THE AGREEMENT ON THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS AND AGREED THAT STRICT OBSERVANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STABLE AND LASTING PEACE IN INDOCHINA." ALTHOUGH TANAKA SAID ON HIS ARRIVAL THAT HE INTENDED TO "EXCHANGE VIEWS...ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS ON BILATERAL ISSUES" WITH THE GUB, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT THE KHMER ISSUE IN THE UNGA WAS NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSSED.

3. AS EXPECTED, THE TWO SIDES ANNOUNCED THAT NEW JAPANESE COMMODITY LOAN TO BURMA WOULD BE NEGOTIATED. TOTALING 6.5 BILLION YEN (\$21.6 MILLION), THE LOAN FEATURES A TEN YEAR GRACE PERIOD FOLLOWED BY 20 YEAR REPAYMENT AT 2.75 PERCENT INTEREST. THE LOAN IS ON AN "LDC UNTIED BASIS" UNDER WHICH GOODS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM MUTUALLY AGREED UPON LDC SUPPLIERS AS WELL AS JAPAN. ANOTHER PROSPECTIVE JAPANESE AID PROJECT (A ROAD AND RAIL BRIDGE ACROSS IRRAWADDY NEAR PROME) WAS DEFERRED FOR FURTHER COST-BENEFIT STUDY.

4. ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, THE NE WIN-TANAKA CONVERSATIONS CENTERED PRINCIPALLY ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MATTERS AND ON A REPORTEDLY RATHER SUPERFICIAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF WORLD PROBLEMS, E.G., INFLATION AND COMMODITY SHORTAGES. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, NE WIN SAID BURMA WAS ON SATISFACTORY TERMS WITH USSR, BUT NOT SUCH GOOD TERMS WITH PRC, BECAUSE OF LATTER'S "TWO TRACK" POLICY, I.E., MAINTAINING NORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES AT STATE-TO-STATE LEVEL WHILE, AT PARTY LEVEL, EXTENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT TO BCP INSURGENCY. LATER IN CONVERSATION, NE WIN ADVERTED TO ALLEGEDLY SIMILAR DICHOTOMY IN US POLICY; US-GUB RELATIONS ARE GOOD AT STATE-TO-STATE LEVEL, BUT THERE ARE ALSO "WORRISOME INDICATIONS" OF NON-OFFICIAL US SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS OPERATING ON THE THAI-BURMA BORDER. NE WIN DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH GROUPS US INTERESTS ARE ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTING AND THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THEORIZED THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN THINKING OF THE KMT. WE BELIEVE THAT IT MORE LIKELY NE WIN HAD IN MIND THE PDP OR POSSIBLY THE

SHAN STATE ARMY.

5. NE WIN ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT GUB CAN CONTAIN AND EVENTUALLY SUPPRESS BCP INSURGENCY, NOTWITHSTANDING PRC SUPPORT TO INSURGENTS. IN HIS OWN TOUR D'HORIZON TANAKA REPORTEDLY CONTRASTED BURMA'S STRAINED RELATIONS WITH PRC AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION WITH JAPAN'S OPPOSITE SITUATION -- SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET UNION AND FRIENDLY AND IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PRC. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, TANAKA INDICATED EXPECTATION OF NO EARLY SOLUTION TO TAIWAN QUESTION, ASSERTING THAT A SOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE COMMON APPROACH BY PRC, USG, JAPAN, AND INTERESTINGLY, SOVIET UNION.

6. COMMENT: IN SUM, THE VISIT APPARENTLY WENT WELL AND, OF COURSE, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF TANAKA'S DOMESTIC TROUBLES. THE FIRST CLASS RECEPTION EXTENDED THE JAPANESE IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT JAPAN REMAINS BY FAR THE LARGEST BILATERAL ASSISTANCE DONOR TO THE GUB, AND ITS PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNER. NE WIN'S COMMENTS CONCERNING GUB-US RELATIONS ARE NOT NEW; HE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO USE THIS LINE BEFORE AND MAY BE DOING SO TO ILLUSTRATE THE DELICATE POSITION BURMA FACES VIS A VIS THE MAJOR POWERS, THUS FURTHER JUSTIFYING ITS NEUTRALIST STANCE.
OSBORN

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